

App'n No. 10/659,016

Amdt. Dated November 10, 2004

Response to Office action of October 10, 2004

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Official Action of October 20, 2004. In response to the issues raised, we offer the enclosed amendments and following submissions.

35 USC §102 Novelty

Claims 1, 2, 4 and 9 stand rejected for lack of novelty in light of the disclosure in US 6,149,256 to McIntyre et al.

Claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the "pierceable seal" and the "collapsible membrane" are separate and distinct elements of the invention. The ink storage chambers have been further characterized by the functional limitation that the collapsible membrane allows the chamber volume to reduce as the ink is depleted. An ordinary worker interpreting this claim in the context of the specification as a whole, would readily understand that the pierceable seal does not provide the chamber with a reduceable volume but rather the inward collapse of the collapsible membrane. It is this feature that allows the time and cost efficient manufacture of separate, fully sealed ink chambers (see p. 6, ln 24 to p. 7, ln 2).

McIntyre does not teach or suggest ink chambers with collapsible membranes so that they reduce in volume as the ink is used. Accordingly, the cited art fails to anticipate the present invention as defined by amended claim 1. Likewise claims 2, 4 and 9 are also novel by virtue of their appendence to amended claim 1.

35 USC §103 Obviousness

Claims 5 to 8 stand rejected as obvious in light of US 6,149,256 to McIntyre et al. in view of US 5,240,238 to Lee.

Pursuant to the above, the combined disclosures of Lee and McIntyre fail to disclose ink chambers at least partially formed from collapsible membranes so the chamber volumes reduce as the ink is used. Both claims 5 and 8 incorporate his feature by virtue of their appendence to amended claim 1 (via claims 7, 6 and 5 in the case of claim 8). Lee is not directed to inkjet printing and so clearly does not provide any motivation to modify McIntyre to derive the combination of elements defined by claims 5 or 8.

Accordingly, claims 5 to 8 are not obvious in light of the combined disclosures of the cited references.

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It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's objections have been traversed. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of the application is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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